

HOUSE BILL 1981

By Marsh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55
and Title 68, relative to ground ambulance service
providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-140-302, is amended by adding
the following new subdivisions:

() "Emergency medical responder" or "(EMR)" means a person who has
successfully completed an EMR training course and has qualified by examinations to
perform lifesaving interventions and to assist higher-level personnel at the scene and
during transport, under medical direction;

() "Emergency medical services – apprentice" or "(EMS-A)" means a person
who does not possess an EMS license to provide emergency medical care in this state
but meets all other requirements for operating an emergency vehicle;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3, is amended by
adding the following new sections:

68-140-3__.

(a) An EMS-A may be utilized by a licensed ambulance service if the EMS-A:

(1) Satisfies all necessary pre-employment background screening,
including a criminal background check and sex offender registry check;

(2) Is accompanied with at least one (1) EMT while responding to a
request for emergency medical care;

(3) Does not engage in patient care above the EMS-A's scope of training
and licensure;

(4) Becomes licensed as an EMR or EMT within twelve (12) months of the EMS-A's initial employment date; and

(5) Is not included in a compact between states.

(b) For the purposes of the department's emergency medical services standards and categories, an EMS-A must be regarded as an EMT.

68-140-3__.

(a) An EMR may be utilized by a licensed ambulance service if the EMR:

(1) Satisfies all necessary pre-employment background screening to include criminal background and sex offender registry;

(2) Is accompanied with at least one (1) EMT while responding to a request for emergency medical care;

(3) Does not engage in patient care above the EMR's scope of training and licensure;

(4) Becomes licensed as an EMT within twelve (12) months of the EMR's initial employment date as an EMR employee or twelve (12) months following the EMR's initial licensure as an EMR while employed; and

(5) Is not included in a compact between states.

(b) For the purposes of the department's emergency medical services standards and categories, an EMR must be regarded as an EMT.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-102(22)(F), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following:

(F) **For-Hire Endorsement.** This endorsement is required to permit a licensee to operate a Class D vehicle as a chauffeur. This subdivision (22)(F) does not apply to ambulance personnel;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-140-306, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, an individual who has reached eighteen (18) years of age, has a valid driver license, and has completed an emergency vehicle operations class is eligible for service as an ambulance driver or operator. No further specialty endorsements are required.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.